

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Sustainability Hotspot

1

NA PALI COAST STATE PARK

~Island of Kauai~



Top to bottom: The world famous Na Pali Coast, the rich near-shore waters, view of Na Pali from Kokee, sedimentation attributed to erosion.

The world has witnessed the breathtaking beauty of the Na Pali Coast through movies, television, and countless publications. These images comprise the world vision of the paradise that is Hawaii.

The Na Pali Coast Hotspot encompasses coastal land and near-shore waters running from Kee Beach to Polihale Beach. It is an immense, breathtaking 16-mile long coastline situated on the northwestern coast of Kauai. Except for a 10-acre parcel in Kalalau Valley, all the lands are State-owned and are administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources as a State park, forest reserve, natural area reserve, public hunting area, marine life conservation area, navigable waters, and historic preserve.

Although the Na Pali Coast is rich with natural and cultural resources, adverse impacts to all resources are increasing. At risk, due to the past actions and presence of man, are:

- Na Pali's top soil;
- native plant communities;
- threatened and endangered species;
- streams;
- coral reef ecosystems;
- game animal populations;
- cultural sites;
- Na Pali's natural beauty.

The land and the running waters are being fouled by illegal campers and squatters. There are severe erosion problems along the coast and sections of the Na Pali trail. Milolii Stream, certain Kalalau Stream tributaries, and the near-shore waters from Milolii to Makaha have sedimentation problems. The many rare and endangered species and native plant communities are being pushed to the brink of extinction due to invasive weeds, goats, rock falls and slides, disappearance or decline of beneficial insect pollinators, alien insects and diseases, and other natural and man-induced causes.

Poaching of game continues. Archaeological resources are being impacted by human disturbances, vegetation intrusion, rock falls and slides, and natural erosion. Ancient Hawaiian burials have been disturbed. The area's natural beauty and ambiance are adversely impacted by litter at Milolii and Hanakapiai Valley, intrusive helicopter flights and boats plying the near-

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Sustainability Hotspot

2

NA PALI COAST STATE PARK

~Island of Kauai~



Top: One of the many waterfalls to be found along the Na Pali Coast. Bottom: Agricultural terraces in dramatic hanging valleys are evidence of human habitation.

shore waters, large erosion scars, intrusive signage at Honopu Beach, and intrusive structures on Makaha Ridge. There are numerous obstacles to sustaining the area's significant natural and cultural resources. These include:

- lack of comprehensive planning;
- insufficient manpower and funding;
- illegal uses and activities;
- unregulated commercial uses and activities;
- cumbersome bureaucracy, regulations and procedures;
- politics;
- poor and inefficient organizational structures;
- poor and faulty communication linkages within and external to agencies.

DLNR's Sustainability Hotspot Team:

Wayne Souza - State Parks, Kauai, 274-3446;

Don Heacock - Aquatic Resources;

Ed Henry - Land Division;

Sam Lee - Land Division;

Tarey Low - Conservation and Resources Enforcement;

Nancy McMahon - Historic Preservation;

Stephen Palama - Conservation and Resources Enforcement;

Ed Petteys - Forestry and Wildlife;

Vaughan Tyndzik - Boating and Ocean Recreation;

is responsible for the long-range sustainability of the Na Pali Coast.

DLNR's Vision for the Future and How to Attain It

DLNR envisions Na Pali as a pristine, wild coastline with healthy near-shore waters and functioning native ecosystems. The park will offer high-quality, wilderness-type recreation for residents and visitors at a sustainable level.

To achieve this vision of the future for Na Pali, DLNR must:

- establish a comprehensive planning process with communities;
- train staff and hire consultants and facilitators;

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Sustainability Hotspot

3

NA PALI COAST STATE PARK

~Island of Kauai~



Top to bottom: A rainbow over Kalalau Valley, the Na Pali Coast is frequented by endangered species including monk seals, the cracked shell of a sea turtle. The size of this territory and the shortage of manpower make sustainability of resources along this coastline very difficult for DLNR.

- improve resource protection by adding and equipping four additional Conservation and Resources Enforcement officers;
- initiate monitoring processes to track resource status, and expand on its park adoption program;
- upgrade infrastructure, including new self-composting toilets and emergency phones at designated locations;
- install an information kiosk at Kalalau Beach.

DLNR will also pursue a lease agreement with a non-profit group to provide information at the trail-head to possibly include sales of literature and souvenirs. 🌺



DLNR's Hotspot Team members for the Na Pali Coast (top row, l-r): Souza, Heacock, Henry, Lee, (bottom row) Low, McMahon, Palama, Petteys. Not pictured: Vaughan Tyndzik of Boating and Ocean Recreation.